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TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF

Mr. STANLEY C. JELlicoe,

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Mortimer Bros., Printers and Publishers, Totnes.

TOTNES

Rural District Council.

REPORT OF THE M.O.H. FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31st, 1925.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report, in which is included the report on the general health of the district, sanitary work and improvements.

The District is divided into two parts. No. 1 comprises the parishes of Ashprington, Berry Pomeroy, Churston Ferrers, Cornworthy, Dittisham, Dartington, Halwell, Harberton, Kingswear, Littlehempston, Marldon, Morleigh and Stoke Gabriel. The acreage is 32,326 acres. Mr. Tollit is Sanitary Inspector.

No. 2 District has Buckfastleigh West, Dean Prior, Diptford, Holne, Norh Huish, Rattery, South Brent, Staverton and Ugborough, with an acreage of 45,420 acres. Mr. Full is Sanitary Inspector. The population is estimated at just over 12,000 and is slightly on the increase—about 250 more than the 1911 census.

The whole district is hilly and is chiefly drained by the Dart and its tributaries, but Diptford, Morleigh, South Brent and Ugborough are drained by the Avon and Erme. These rivers rise on Dartmoor. The climate is mild and humid.

Rainfall in the West District is 48.5in.; on the East side, 67.4in.

Agriculture is the chief industry. No industry has any particular influence on health.

The rateable value is £82,722, and sum represented by a penny rate is £344 13s. 6d.

Poor Law relief is not excessive.

No cause of sickness has been specially noteworthy.

Hospital accommodation is sufficient. There are Cottage Hospitals, and cases are taken at Plymouth, Exeter, Paignton or Torquay. There are no Maternity or Children's Hospitals. Fever cases are taken to Paignton Hospital. and smallpox cases to Exeter. Fever cases are paid for by the Council.

The Infirmary at the Institution is quite sufficient for the unmarried mothers, illegitimate children and

homeless. Ambulances are available for all cases.

There are no Maternity or Child Welfare Centres, as the parishes are so scattered. Tubercular cases are seen frequently by the Tub. Officer at their homes. Venereal cases, of which there are few, can attend Clinics at Plymouth or Exeter.

The Public Health officers consist of the M.O.H. and two Sanitary Inspectors, all part time.

Professional nurses in patients' homes can be obtained through the Council at the request of the M.O.H. No Midwives are supplied by the Council, but by the parishes themselves, and are under the District Nurses' Association.

Chemical work is sent to an analyst at the expense of the Council.

The ADOPTIVE ACTS are the following:—

Public Health Act, 1875, Sect. 150-152.

Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890 (parts).

1890.—Common Lodging Houses.

1898.—Nuisances, Kingswear and S. Brent only.

1899.—New Streets and Buildings, S. Brent only.

1910.—New Buildings, Closets, etc., (Local Government Board Model Bye-laws), except Kingswear and S. Brent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Closet accommodation has much improved. The privies have been done away with in rural districts. Scavenging is efficient in the towns, and in the rural district refuse is buried in gardens.

Water is ample in all areas. A great portion of the district is supplied by waterworks and a minor portion by wells. Well water is frequently tested for contamination and very few cases are found (none this year). The water is not plumbo solvent.

Pollution takes place at Harbertonford and cannot be remedied until a system of drainage is carried out. A great part of the district has a drainage system but the more rural parts have none.

The closets are now sufficient, and water closets are used where there is

a drainage system. The rest of the district has earth closets.

Scavenging is satisfactory.

The Sanitary Inspectors' Reports as to Inspections, etc., are :—

		No. 1 Dis.	No. 2 Dis.
Bakehouses	... Visits	30	30
Defective	... ..	2	1
Dairies, etc.	... Visits	20	100
Defective	... ..	0	10
New Drains	... ..	0	15
No. Repaired	... ..	8	4
New Sewers	... ..	3	2
Clothes & Bedding	disinfected	7	0
Houses disinfected	... ..	7	30
No. of Complaints as to			
Nuisances	... ..	7	15
Notes issued for Abatement		18	1
Abated	... ..	18	15
Overcrowding abated	... ..	2	8
Complaints as to Pig-styes		2	8
Conversions to Water Closets		1	6
New Closets	... ..	4	4
Defective Closets	remedied	1	4
Visits to Railway Stations		12	50
Schools visited	... ..	11	4
Visits to Slaughter Houses		6	40
Defective	... ..	0	2
Samples of water tested	... ..	5	2

Schools are visied by the M.O.H. and in cases of infectious disease are closed after consultation with the County M.O.H., who is School Medical Officer.

Milk Supply is good. No milk is graded. Dairies are frequently inspected. No regular inspection is made of meat.

Slaughterhouses are frequently inspected. There are eight slaughterhouses, all private. There were eight in 1920.

No inspection of food is made unless there is a complaint. There has been no case of food poisoning.

HOUSING.

I.—General Housing Conditions in Area :—

(1) These are only moderate in the rural parts of the District. There are several cottages in all parts of the District which would be pulled down or unoccupied if it was not for the present shortage of houses. These unsatisfactory houses have to be used on this account.

(2) (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses. Cottages are wanted throughout the two Districts. (b)

Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage. Some cottages have been built under the 1923 Act, and the Council is now submitting a scheme under the 1924 Act to build houses in those areas where they are urgently required.

(3) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future:—There has been a slight increase in the population, chiefly non-working class. No great increase is anticipated in the future of the working classes.

II.—(1) Overcrowding: There is some overcrowding in most parishes.

(2) Causes: Due to lack of houses.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding: Parishes have sent in an estimate of the number of houses required and the Council have sanctioned building them.

(4) Principal cases of overcrowding in 1925 and action taken: Houses are required, mostly at Marldon and South Brent. Cases of overcrowding have been temporarily abated.

III.—Fitness of Houses:

(1) (a) General standard of Houses in the District: These are only moderate among the working classes as they are mostly old-fashioned buildings. (b) General character of defects found to exist in unfit houses: Dampness and insufficient light. (c) Defects are due in some cases to neglect of owners owing to the expense of repairs since the war.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under: (a) The Public Health Acts. (b) The Housing Acts: Action is taken under both.

(3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, etc.: Up to the present time difficulty has been met with in getting houses repaired owing to expense, the rent of cottages in rural areas seldom being above 2s. 6d. per week, and often under.

(4) Conditions so far as they affect housing as regards water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters: There has been little difficulty in any of these matters.

IV.—Unhealthy Areas: There are no unhealthy areas.

V.—Bye-laws are working satisfactorily and are sufficient.

VI.—General and Miscellaneous:

Improvements have been made during the year and with the building of new houses overcrowding and insanitary property will be done away with.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

	Districts	
	No. 1	No. 2
No. of New Houses erected during the year ...	13	25
(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ...	15	25
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:		
(i) By the Local Authority	0	0
(ii) By other bodies or persons ...	13	25
1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses:		
Inspection—		
(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	16	18
(2) Number of Dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925...	17	25
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2	6
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	15	20
2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices:		
Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	9	12

3.—Action under Statutory Powers:

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925:

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	9	10
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(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—

(a) By owners ...	9	10
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(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0	0
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(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	0	0
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B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0	0
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(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners ...	0	0
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(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0	0
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C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925:

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0	0
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(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0	0
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(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	0	0
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(4) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0	0
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(5) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0	0
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VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1925.

Total Births: 153. Legitimate (males 73, females 77); Illegitimate (males 0, females 2). The birth rate is 12.72 per 1,000.

Total deaths, 148 (males 76, females 72).

Deaths of infants under 1 year were 8, the death rate being 52.28 per 1,000 births. There were no deaths from diarrhoea or measles; 2 deaths from whooping cough.

There was an epidemic of influenza at the beginning and end of the year. The deaths were 4.

Notifiable cases were:—Scarlet fever, 13; diphtheria, 5; enteric, 2; erysipelas, 1; puerperal fever, 1; pneumonia, 6; pulmonary tuberculosis, 11.

TUBERCULOSIS.												
Age Periods.					New Cases—11.				Deaths.			
					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	..	...				
1	...	...	...	...				
5	...	...	...	...				
10	...	...	...	...				
15	...	...	...	...		2						
20	...	...	...	...		2				1		
25	...	...	...	...					1	2	1	
35	...	...	...	...		6						
45	...	...	...	...					2	1		
55	...	...	...	...		1						
65 and upwards...	...	...	...	...				
Totals	...	...	...	...	0	11	0	0	3	4	1	0

The causes of death were:—Scarlet fever, 1; whooping cough, 2; influenza, 4; phthisis, 7; other tuberculous disease, 1; cancer, 14; diabetes, 1; cerebral hemorrhage, 10; heart disease, 23; arterio-sclerosis, 5; bronchitis, 11; pneumonia, 6; other respiratory disease, 1; appendicitis, 1; acute and chronic nephritis, 1; puerperal sepsis, 1; other accidents and diseases of pregnancy, 2; congenital debility, etc., 4; suicide, 1;

other deaths from violence, 6 ; other defined diseases, 45 ; causes ill-defined or unknown, 1.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STANLEY C. JELLICOE.

April 27th, 1926.



